



February 28, 2006

Guilty verdict in East Providence bank robbery

A federal judge today found **Wayne S. Shelton**, 30, formerly of East Providence, guilty of aggravated bank robbery, finding that he knowingly committed a robbery at a Bank RI branch in East Providence in August 2004.

The office of United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty verdict, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi issued in U.S. District Court, Providence. Judge Lisi heard testimony about the robbery during a non-jury trial earlier this month and, in addition to finding that Shelton committed the robbery, rejected his claim that he was not guilty by reason of insanity or mental defect.

During the trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Adi Goldstein presented evidence that, on August 12, 2004, Shelton went into the Bank RI on Taunton Avenue wearing a bandana over his face and, brandishing a bb gun that resembled a 9-millimeter pistol, demanded money from four tellers. He left the bank with about \$9,000 and fled the scene on a mountain bike that he had previously parked near the bank.

A bank customer who witnessed the robbery followed Shelton out of the bank and saw him remove the bandana from his face. The customer later identified Shelton as the robber. Several East Providence Police officers testified about pursuing and arresting Shelton shortly after the robbery.

-more-

Judge Lisi rejected Shelton's claim that he suffered from an incapacitating mental illness, pointing to the government's evidence that Shelton planned the robbery by casing the bank the day before and the day of the robbery, and that his actions during the robbery showed the ability to reason. She also rejected his claim that he could not recall the robbery, noting that his claimed lapses of memory included only those actions that had criminal culpability.

Shelton is detained in federal custody pending sentencing, which is scheduled for May 26. The maximum penalty for aggravated bank robbery is 25 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

East Providence Police and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** investigated the robbery. Assistant U.S. Attorney Goldstein is prosecuting it.

-30-

Contact: 401-709-5032

Thomas.connell@usdoj.gov

Find news releases and other information of interest on the U.S. Attorney's Web site:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ri/>